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the complex and multiform curse of polygamy, their traditional reverence for the Bible, of whose contents they knew nothing, has made them singularly prompt in learning, and docile in adopting, its doctrines and its precepts. The question of authority was settled beforehand, and in this case we have an admirable illustration of the worth of the principle of authority in religion, as an educator of the conscience and character up to that stage of inward experience at which the truth becomes its own sufficient witness. The volume we are now noticing selects from the history of the Nestorian mission those labors that have been undertaken for the primary benefit of the women, and especially the narrative of the institution, organization, management, and results of the Female Seminary at Oroomiah. We must refer our readers to the book itself for the details, which are of intense interest, exhibiting the elevation to the dignity of civilized, cultivated Christian matrons of a very considerable number of women, whose destiny, but for the intervention of the missionaries, would have been to drag out a life of squalid ignorance, despised and beaten by their husbands, covered with vermin, and destitute of the faintest vestige of what belongs to our ideal of womanhood. We never yet knew a despiser of missions who had made himself familiar with records of this class, and we doubt whether such familiarity and contempt could by any possibility coexist.

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22. — 1. *Historical Sketch of the Twelfth Congregational Society in Boston.* By LEWIS G. PRAY. Boston. 1863. 12mo. pp. 123.  
 2. *The Sylphids' School, and other Pieces in Verse.* By LEWIS G. PRAY. Boston. 1862. 16mo. pp. 291.

WE are glad of the opportunity of saying a word of respect, reverence, and gratitude for one who was, for many years of quiet, unostentatious usefulness, associated with the religious charities of our city. Mr. Pray was for thirty-three years Superintendent of the Sunday School of the Twelfth Congregational Society, and at the same time was a wise counsellor and an assiduous helper in various enterprises for the promotion of religious knowledge, for the Christian nurture of neglected children, and for the relief and elevation of the poor. Few men in our community have wrought in these departments of service more faithfully or unselfishly. The books before us will recall to many the vivid remembrance of a friend, whom, in his retirement from active duty, they now but seldom meet, but of whose prolonged capacity of usefulness they are glad to be assured through the press.

The first-named volume is a simple and modest, well-digested and

carefully-written history of a religious society whose birth, growth, decline, and death are intimately connected with important changes in the distribution of our municipal population. It had its origin in a plethora of the Protestant congregations in the northwestern section of the city, and for twenty years or more it had a vigorous life. Before the close of the next twenty years the church edifice on Chambers Street, together with another on Hanover Street which had been one of its *feeders*, had passed into the possession of the Romanists, who now, in that whole region, far outnumber the Protestants.

"The Sylphids' School" is the longest piece in a volume of poems, chiefly didactic or devotional,—many of them hymns written for special occasions, or for use in Sunday schools. The reader will recognize in them, under the garb, but not disguise, of verse, the fervent devotional feeling, the genial kindness, and the warm sympathy with childhood, which have won for Mr. Pray the honor and affection of so large a circle of fellow-workers and friends.

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23. — *Tales and Sketches*. By HUGH MILLER, Author of "The Old Red Sandstone," "My Schools and Schoolmasters," "The Testimony of the Rocks," etc. Edited, with a Preface, by MRS. MILLER. Boston: Gould and Lincoln. 1863. 12mo. pp. 369.

THESE, we are told, are among Hugh Miller's earliest literary compositions; but there is nothing in them indicative of immaturity of mind or of culture. The most important and interesting of the papers are the first two, comprising "Recollections" of Ferguson and of Burns respectively,—understood to be substantially authentic, though somewhat dramatized. Some of the remaining pieces are fictions, deeply rather than highly wrought, and illustrating the tenderness of the author's sensibilities and the genuineness of his sympathies. The whole volume—unlike most last volumes of great men, which are apt to be made up of refuse matter—is worthy of being preserved in a permanent form, as a memorial of the author's taste and power in a department of literature that seems to have little in common with his favorite science.

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24. — *The Invasion of the Crimea: its Origin, and an Account of its Progress down to the Death of Lord Raglan*. By ALEXANDER WILLIAM KINGLAKE. Volume I. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1863. 12mo. pp. 650.

THIS is not a work to be dealt with in a brief notice, even were the